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30 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Orientation Course Lecture on "Services of Common Concern"

1. Mr. Reber, AD/IC, has requested informal comment by members of O/NE on a lecture on "Services of Common Concern" which he has prepared for delivery during the next Orientation Course.

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2. Inasmuch as [REDACTED] O/NE, has been requested to lecture on National Intelligence Estimates, it may be supposed that Training intended Mr. Reber to confine himself to services rendered by O/O, O/RR, O/SI, etc., pursuant to Section 102(d)(4) of the National Security Act of 1947.

3. Mr. Reber, however, has developed a thesis that all the functions of CIA, including the production and coordination of national estimates, are "services of common concern". This thesis is supported by a literal interpretation of the text of the Act and by the observation that the coordinating and estimating functions of CIA are matters of common interest discharged through interagency cooperation.

*Come, now!*

4. Although this argument has a superficial plausibility, we consider it to be both historically untrue and highly impolitic to present as CIA doctrine. All the functions of CIA, of course, are of concern to the NSC and the several Departments represented there, but from the earliest times a distinction has been made between the Director's responsibility to the NSC for planning intelligence coordination and producing national estimates, on the one hand, and services rendered by CIA to the intelligence community, on the other. Mr. Reber's doctrine would tend to obscure this distinction to the detriment of the Director's ultimate authority with respect to national estimates.

5. We understand that the General Counsel shares our view of this matter.

6. Mr. Reber has been advised of our position as set forth above. I consider it desirable that you also should be aware of it.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

Copies to: AD/IC  
General Counsel

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